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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,735	11/13/2003	Olaf Vancura	3718611.05490	8906
29159	7590	05/11/2010		
K&L Gates LLP P.O. Box 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690			EXAMINER TORIMERO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 05/11/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

chicago.patents@klgates.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,735

Applicant(s)

VANCURA, OLAF

Examiner

ADETOKUNBO O. TORIMIRO

Art Unit

3714

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 54, 56-58, 60, 61 and 63-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 54, 56-58, 60, 61 and 63-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/03/2010
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ ~~Notice of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 02/03/2010 has been entered. It is noted that claims 54,63,67, and 69 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless:-

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 54,56-58, 60,61,63, and 65-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Olsen (US 6,146,273).

Re claims 54,63,67, and 69: Olsen discloses a method of operating a gaming machine having a plurality of game symbols at least including a plurality of different award value symbols / *plurality of symbols with various values as shown in fig.13* and a plurality of end game symbols / *symbols with zero value which ends the bonus mode as explained in col.8 and hence used to adjust the bonus mode length (see fig.13, col.8, lines 26-34 and lines 49-53; col.24, lines 40-44; col.30, line 31-col.31, line27)*, said method comprising: randomly generating a combination of the plurality of game symbols, causing a display of the gaming machine to display: the randomly generated combination of the plurality of symbols (see **figs.11 and 13; col.3, lines 43-48**), and for each of any randomly generated award value symbols of the randomly generated combination of the plurality of game symbols, an individual numerical

award value associated with said randomly generated award value symbol (see **fig.13**; , summing the individual displayed numerical award values associated with any displayed award value symbols to form an accumulated winnings value (see **col.24, lines 12-17**), repeating the steps until a predetermined number of said end game symbols have been randomly generated in the generated combinations of the plurality of game symbols, said predetermined number being at least one, and ending play when the predetermined number is reached / *the null symbols may be used to adjust the bonus mode length* (see **col.8, lines 31-34; col.24, lines 40-44**). It is apparent and interpreted as shown above that the null symbols are symbols with zero value that could end a game by producing the losing values that ends the game. Further the examiner interprets the teaching of Olsen as teaching an end game symbol when the last value symbol is selected. Because as claimed by Olsen, the game ends when the current value of the bonus game equals or drops below zero, therefore the symbol selected before this occurs can be interpreted as the end game symbol for the bonus mode. Also as seen in col.8, lines 31-34, other turn-off values can also be implemented other than zero. Further the null symbol produces a zero value outcome which according to col. 8 has the ability to end the bonus mode.

Re claims 56-58,70, and 71: Olsen discloses wherein the plurality of game symbols include null symbols in the game symbols (see **col.24, lines 40-44**); wherein the value symbols include positive integer values (see **col.24, lines 14-17**); wherein the value symbols include negative integer values / *the current value jackpot* (see **GAME 1 Table in col.18**). It is apparent to Examiner that if the symbols can include positive integers, therefore from the current value of

the jackpot as seen in the GAME 1 Table that shows negative integers, then it is a preference to include values that are negative integers.

Re claims 60 and 61: Olsen discloses ending play when a player stop signal is received in response to the step of summing and awarding of the accumulated winnings / *each bonus award decrements the current value by the amount of each award and the bonus time period is ended when the current value is less than or equal to the base value which means that that the gaming machine receives a stop signal associated with no more payout value which then ends the game since summing up and accumulation of value by the player means no more value for the machine and hence end of game (see abstract, lines 13-17).*

Re claims 65,66, and 68: Olsen discloses further comprising paying a progressive jackpot in response to ending the play of the bonus game; paying the predetermined value in response to ending the play of the bonus game / *wherein the jackpots are made and paid to one or more eligible gaming machines where the payment are progressive and accumulated all though and until the end of the game (see col.8, lines 23-34).*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 64 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsen (US 6,146,273) in view of Frohm et al (US 6,234,897).

Re claims 64 and 72: The teachings of Olsen have been discussed above.

However, Olsen does not explicitly teach paying an award different from the predetermined value in response to ending the play of the bonus game; wherein the value symbols include multipliers

Frohm et al teaches the method further comprising: paying an award different from the predetermined value in response to ending the bonus game (see fig.8; col.7, lines 59-62); wherein the value symbols include multipliers (see figs. 10A-10D; col.8, lines 10-21).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Frohm et al into the teaching of Olsen. One would be motivated to do this so as to have a system whereby the award is not always the same as anticipated thereby providing a sense of anticipation to the player and hence making the game interesting for the players. One can also be motivated to include multipliers as part of the symbols so as to provide a gaming system where the outcome achieved by the players can be multiplied, thereby increasing the player interest and anticipation in the game since the player realizes that there are more chances and opportunities to attain greater payout.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 02/03/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument that Olsen is not prior art due to filing date, the examiner disagrees. The examiner points out that careful examination of application no. 08/957,076 now Patent 6,110,043 which Olsen '273 is a CIP which teaches similar limitations as the presently used Olsen '273. The examiner points out that Olsen '273 cites portions of col. 8 that teaches on how bonus mode is ended if values equal or less than zero is reached, which is also found for instance in col.4, lines 1-4 of Olsen '043. The examiner further points out that although null symbol is not explicitly mentioned in the Olsen '043 application, the main concept of achieving a zero value as a means of ending the game is addressed, taught, and supported by the Olsen '043 application with earlier filing date of Oct.24, 1997. This therefore implies that Olsen is a good prior art and hence the rejections are maintained. Further Olsen '043 teaches in the abstract and col.2, lines 37-38 amongst other sections, providing current values on the display such that upon the value being less than or equal to zero causes the game to end. It is also inherent to gaming machines for plurality of symbols, numbers, indices, etc to be present on the display of a gaming machine in order to assign value and determine outcomes in a gaming machine because without this symbols, there is no way for the game player to know or monitor their performance in the game.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adetokunbo O. Torimiro whose telephone number is (571) 270-1345. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am - 4pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hotaling can be reached on (571) 272-4437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/A. O. T./

Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/John M Hotaling II/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714